

# Luke 20:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders,

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders**—Luke sets the confrontation during Jesus' teaching ministry in the temple courts. The phrase "preached the gospel" (εὐαγγελιζομένου, euangelizomenou) shows Jesus actively proclaiming good news, not merely teaching ethics. The opposition coalition—chief priests (ἀρχιερεῖς, archiereis), scribes (γραμματεῖς, grammateis), and elders (πρεσβύτεροι, presbyteroi)—represents the Sanhedrin's power structure.

The verb "came upon" (ἐπέστησαν, epestēsan) suggests sudden, aggressive confrontation, not polite inquiry. This occurs after Jesus cleansed the temple (19:45-46), directly challenging their authority and revenue stream. Their question about authority (v. 2) attempts to trap Jesus: claiming divine authority invites blasphemy charges, while claiming human authority undermines His prophetic stance.

## Historical Context

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This confrontation occurred during Jesus' final week in Jerusalem, likely Tuesday of Passion Week. The temple Jesus taught in was Herod's temple, the center of Jewish worship and the Sanhedrin's power base. The chief priests controlled temple operations and profited from the money-changing system Jesus had just

disrupted. Scribes were legal experts in Torah, while elders represented wealthy lay aristocracy. Together they formed the Sanhedrin, which would condemn Jesus three days later.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Why did Jesus' proclamation of the gospel in the temple courts threaten the religious establishment's authority?
2. How does the coalition of religious leaders reveal the nature of opposition to God's truth?
3. What does the timing of this confrontation (after cleansing the temple) tell us about defending corrupt religious systems?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐγένετο	ἐν	μῇ	τῶν	ἡμερῶν	ἐκείνων,	
And	it came to pass	in	G1520	G3588	days	of those	
G2532	G1096	G1722			G2250	G1565	
διδάσκοντος	αὐτοῦ	τὸν	λαὸν	ἐν	τῷ	ἱερῷ	καὶ
as he taught	G846	G3588	the people	in	G3588	the temple	And
G1321			G2992	G1722		G2411	G2532
εὐαγγελιζομένου	ἐπέστησαν	οἱ	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ		
preached the gospel	came upon	G3588	the chief priests	And	G3588		
G2097	G2186		G749	G2532			
γραμματεῖς	σὺν	τοῖς	πρεσβυτέροις				
the scribes	him with	G3588	the elders				
G1122	G4862		G4245				

